

Tribute to Fire-Chief George Bacon 1970-2007

Delivered by former Selectman Ted Gaudette at a retirement party on July 13, 2007.

George Bacon has given 37 years of service as Chief, 43 total with Dunstable Fire Department.

I started writing this speech a couple of days ago, and, as in all of these types of talks, it comes out as mixture of cliches and accolades and basically you don't know any more about the man at the end of the speech than when the speaker started. So, what I would like to do is share with you what I know about Chief George Bacon.

To speak about George Bacon is to speak about commitment, dedication, volunteerism, strong leadership mixed with the cultural foundation of the town of Dunstable, for they are one in the same. George is a strong willed and driven man that doesn't take No for an answer. In addition, George is also described as a compassionate and giving person. In his tenure as chief he has been instrumental in running the Pizza night, the Blood drive, and the Santa weekend and he has also done many other good deeds behind the scenes that the citizens are not aware of. If we (the BaS) were conferring an appropriate metal for him to wear to depict his service, it would not be a purple heart but rather a heart of gold.

For most of us, and anyone that was either born or moved into town after 1970, George Bacon has been the only Fire Chief we have ever known.

Believe it or not, there were some chiefs prior to George!

Even though George has been chief for a long time and lived here a long time, George was a "Blow -in" to Dunstable. Although he had ties to town thru his family he actually came to town from Chelmsford. George admired what he saw in Dunstable and thought it would be a good place to raise his family, moving here in 1964.

I guess after 43 years, we can now start referring to him as a permanent resident.

George joined the fire department shortly after moving it to town. At that time, the department was under the leadership of Walter "Pop" Savill.

At this point, I think a bit of history is in order.

The Dunstable's fire department, as we know it, was established in the early 1950's. Prior to that time, the fire department records referred to Fire Marshals or Fire Wardens rather than Fire Chiefs. The first Fire Chief of the department was Pop Savill who served first as a fire warden from 1941 thru his formal appointment as Fire Chief in 1956.

He served in that capacity until his death in 1967 at the age of 89. Total of 26 years.